

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

*Please look into this.*  
*AG*

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

Recently, Melissa Nootz and Erica Lighthiser brought their families to my office in Washington, DC, to share concerns about EPA plans for testing the water in Anaconda, Montana.

When Melissa spoke with EPA representatives, she was initially directed to a document of 900+ pages to answer her question. I hope that this response is not the common practice of the EPA. Customer service must always be at the heart of public service.

When Melissa appropriately objected that she needed a clear answer, not a 900-page water-testing manual, she was told that EPA would use a federal standard for testing Anaconda's water, instead of using the Montana-approved process.

Melissa's understanding is that the federal standard filters particulates from water before testing for impurities. She informed me that the State of Montana does not filter particulates from water before testing for impurities. I am not a chemical engineer, but it appears to me that filtering particulates before testing water may produce overly-optimistic results that do not reflect contamination that would be present at the household tap.

Would you please provide an explanation for the EPA's proposed testing process and address the concerns that Erica raised in the enclosed email?

I appreciate your attention to this matter which is of great importance to the residents of Anaconda.

Sincerely,

  
Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

**From:** Erica Lighthiser [mailto:[erica@montanamountainmamas.org](mailto:erica@montanamountainmamas.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 2:51 PM  
**To:** Robison, Charles <[Charles.Robison@mail.house.gov](mailto:Charles.Robison@mail.house.gov)>  
**Cc:** Melissa Nootz <[mnootz@gmail.com](mailto:mnootz@gmail.com)>; Michelle Uberuaga <[muberuaga@momscleanairforce.org](mailto:muberuaga@momscleanairforce.org)>  
**Subject:** Thank you for taking the time to listen to Montana families

Dear Mr. Robison,

On behalf of Moms Clean Air Force, Montana Mountain Mamas, and over a million mothers from across the United States, we appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss some of the issues impacting Montana families. We thank the Congressman for his keen interest and engagement in local issues such as Yellowstone Gateway mines and Superfund communities-- and look forward to working with him to further protect Montana families, clean air and water in our magnificent state.

During our discussion on July 12, you requested more information about the EPA public meeting in Anaconda on July 20, 2017. EPA is holding a public meeting to revise the water quality standards used in part of the Anaconda Co. Smelter Superfund Site. The EPA is proposing to use federal water quality standards instead of Montana's. The difference (as Melissa understands it per a conversation she had with an EPA project manager) between the federal and state water quality standards is in the testing procedure. It seems Montana protocol tests the water *including* the particulate matter in the water, while federal methods require *filtering* particulates from the water before testing the water for heavy metals. We suspect heavy metals could be removed during testing using the federal method, which raises concerns about water quality. We are planning to attend the upcoming meeting, and it would mean a lot to residents in Anaconda if someone on the Congressman's staff was present for the meeting.

For more information about the upcoming EPA public meeting:  
<https://www.epa.gov/mt/anaconda-co-smelter-superfund-site-proposed-plan>

Thanks again for the productive meeting last week. Good luck with your transition and hope to see you again soon!

Warmly,  
Erica, Melissa and Michelle

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Erica Lighthiser



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